[Dr. G. D. Nokes.]

The Vellala community is grouped under "other Caste Hindus" for the purpose of recruitement. It is not possible, therefore, to say whether the Rules worked for their benefit or not.

The question of under-graduates is not a matter with which I am concerned. The proportion of 1 to 3 relates to promotion. It is not a matter of recruitment.

The suggestion that a medical examination of candidates should be conducted is misconceived. In the case of selections for Police Constables and Excise peons, where physique is a qualification, those selected might in a few cases have been undersized, or in other cases might not have had the required physical qualification, when the appointing authorities had to reject them. But now that the staff of my office has been augmented, regular medical examinations of such candidates are arranged before advice on recruitment. In other cases it is the duty of the appointing authorities to satisfy themselves that the candidates are in good health before recruitment.

Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar: May I know whether the proportion now followed is based upon the number of qualified hands in any community or of the total population?

Dr. G. D. Nokes: The rotation is based, according to the Government Order, partly on numbers, irrespective of literacy, and the proportion in the Intermediate Division depends partly upon literacy.

I want to say a word with regard to women, who, it is suggested, should be treated as a separate community. The Recruitment Committee suggested that they should be considered as a separate community for appointments, but Government did not accept this recommendation. The rule will remain as it is unless the member who viewed this suggestion can convince Government that women form a separate community and are not parts of the communities of their small relatives.

I shall, in concluding, reiterate my invitation to members to send me suggestions with regard to major proposals. Let us hope that in the course of the coming year, when the Rules are reviewed, Government will have the assistance of these suggestions. Any difficulties felt by members to occur in the working of the Rules will receive serious consideration by Government.

The question that the demand be passed was, then, put and carried.

The motion was passed and the grant was made.

DEMAND XV—POLICE.

Mr. M. Ramachandra Rao: Sir, I rise to move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 7,54,824 under Demand XV—Police,

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Mr. Kalloor Narayana Pillai: സർ, ഞാൻ ഈ ഡിമാൻഡിനെ അനുകൂലിക്കയാണു ചെയ്യുന്നതു്. ഏതാനും ചില നിർദ്ദേശങ്ങൾ ഗവണ്മെൻറിന്റെയും പോലീസ് കമ്മീഷണരുടെയും ശ്രദ്ധയിൽ കൊണ്ടുവരണമെന്നുള്ളതാണു് ഈ ഡിമാൻറിനെ അനുകൂലിച്ചു സംസാരിക്കാൻ എന്നെ പ്രേരിപ്പിക്കുന്നതു്.

സർ, കഴിഞ്ഞ ഏതാനും കാലങ്ങളായി പോലീസ് കമ്മീഷണർ സ്ഥാനം ഒഴിവുവരുമ്പോൾ ഇവിടെ സർവീസിൽ ഇരിക്കുന്നവരെത്തന്നെ നിയമിച്ചുവരുന്ന പതിവു സ്തുത്യർഹമാണെന്നു് ഞാൻ ആദ്യമെ പ്രസ്താവിച്ചുകൊള്ളട്ടെ. ഈ നാട്ടിലെ ജനങ്ങളുടെ സ്ഥിതിഗതികളും നല്ലവണ്ണം അറിയുന്നതിനു അവസരം കിട്ടിയിട്ടുള്ള ആളുകളെ ഈ സ്ഥാനത്തു പ്രവേശിപ്പിക്കുന്നതു ജനരക്ഷയ്ക്കു ഏറ്റവും ഉതകുന്നതായ ഒരു സംഗതിയാണു്. അടുത്ത കാലത്തു ഓരോ വില്ലേജിലും വിജിലൻസ് കമ്മിറ്റി ഏർപ്പെടുത്തി ജനങ്ങളുമായി സഹകരിക്കുന്നതിനു വേണ്ട സൌകര്യങ്ങൾ ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ളതും സ്തുത്യർഹം തന്നെ. വിജിലൻസു കമ്മിറ്റി മുഖാന്തിരം ജനങ്ങളുമായി പോലീസ് ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറു സഹകരിച്ചുതിൻറ ഫലമായി പല സംഗതികളും അവർക്കു പ്രവർത്തി പഥാതിയിൽ കൊണ്ടുവരാൻ സാധിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടു്. എന്നാൽ ജനങ്ങളുമായി അധികം ഇടപെടേണ്ടിവരുന്ന ഈ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിലെ ചില ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു പല അപവാദങ്ങളും കേൾക്കുന്നുണ്ടു്. ഇതു് അധികവും പോലീസ് ഇൻസ്പക്ടർമാരെയും അവർക്കു താഴെയുള്ള സിൽബന്ധികളേയും സംബന്ധിച്ചാണു് കേൾക്കാറുള്ളതു്. പോലീസ് ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ സമാധാന പരിപാലകന്മാരാണല്ലോ. അവർ സമാധാന പരിപാലനാർത്ഥം പ്രവർത്തിക്കുമ്പോൾ അതിനു പ്രതിബന്ധമായി നിൽക്കുന്നതു്, വാസ്തവത്തിൽ എൻറെ അറിവിൽ പെട്ടിടത്തോളം, യോഗ്യന്മാരായ ആളുകൾതന്നെയാണു്; യോഗ്യന്മാരിൽ അധികം ആളുകൾക്കും പോലീസുമായി ഇടപെടേണ്ട ആവശ്യമുണ്ടാകുമെന്നു എനിക്കു തോന്നുന്നില്ല. മുപ്പത്തിരണ്ടു സംവത്സരമായി വക്കാൽ പണിയിൽ പ്രവർത്തിച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്ന എനിക്കു യഥാർത്ഥത്തിൽ ഒന്നോ രണ്ടോ പോലീസ് ഇൻസ്പെക്ടർമാരെ മാത്രമെ പരിചയമുള്ളു. കാരണം അവരുമായി എനിക്കു യാതൊരുബന്ധവുമില്ല എന്നുള്ളതാണു്. എന്നേപ്പോലെ അയിരിക്കും മറ്റുള്ളവരുടെയും സ്ഥിതി. നേരെമറിച്ചു് ഏതാനും റൌഡികളെ അമർച്ച വരുത്തുന്നതിനു് ഒരു പോലീസുദ്യോഗസ്ഥൻ ശ്രമിക്കുമ്പോൾ ചില യോഗ്യന്മാർ അവരെ സഹായിക്കാൻ പുറപ്പെടുന്നതാ

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[Mr. Kal'oor Narayana Pillai.]

യി കാണാം. ഒരു പോലീസ് ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥൻ പൊതുവേ ജനങ്ങൾക്ക് തൃപ്തികരമായി ഭരണം നടത്തുന്നു എന്നു പറയുന്ന പക്ഷം ആ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥൻ ശരിയായി ജോലി ചെയ്യുന്നില്ലെന്നു വേണം വിചാരിക്കാൻ. യോഗ്യന്മാരായ ആളുകൾക്കു പോലീസ്കാരിൽ നിന്നും യാതൊരുപദ്രവവുമുണ്ടാകുന്നില്ല.

എന്റെ അനുഭവത്തിൽ റൗഡികളുടെയും കേഡികളുടെയും പേരിൽ ൻ൦ാം വകുപ്പിനും ൻ൯ാം വകുപ്പിനും കേസ്സെടുത്തിട്ടുള്ള ഒരു കേസിലും അവരെ ശിക്ഷിക്കത്തക്കവണ്ണം സാക്ഷിപറയുന്നതിന് ആളു കിട്ടാതെ പോലീസുകാർ വിഷമിച്ചുവരുന്നതായി എനിക്കറിയാം. ഈ റൌഡികളെ ഭയപ്പെട്ട യോഗ്യന്മാരായ ആളുകൾ വേണ്ടിവന്നാൽ അവരെ സഹായിക്കയല്ലാതെ വിപരീതമായി നില്ക്കുകയില്ല.

ഈ സംസ്ഥാനത്തു പോലീസുകാർ ൻ൦,ൻ൯-൦ വകുപ്പുകൾക്കു ചാർജ് ചെയ്യുന്ന കേസുകളിൽ നൂറിനു അഞ്ചു വീതമെങ്കിലും ശിക്ഷയിൽ വന്നിട്ടുണ്ടോ എന്ന് എനിക്കു സംശയമാണ്. ഇതിനു കാരണം പൊതുജനങ്ങൾ പോലീസുകാരുമായി സഹകരിച്ചു പ്രവർത്തിക്കുന്നില്ലെന്നുള്ളതാണ്. ഒരു നായർ ഒരു ക്രിസ്ത്യാനിയെ കൊല്ലുന്ന ഒരു ക്രിമിനൽ കേസുണ്ടായിക്കയാണെങ്കിൽ അതിന് ഉടനെ ഒരു വർഗ്ഗീയത കൽപ്പിച്ചുകൂട്ടും. പോലീസിനെ സഹായിക്കാൻ ക്രിസ്ത്യാനികളും നായരെ സഹായിക്കാൻ നായന്മാരും മെനിച്ചുകൂട്ടും. ഇങ്ങനെ വരുമ്പോൾ യഥാർത്ഥത്തിൽ കുറക്കാരനെ ശിക്ഷിക്കാൻ സാധിക്കാതെവരും.

പോലീസ് ഇൻസ്പെക്ടർമാർ കൈക്കൂലി വാങ്ങിക്കുന്നു എന്നൊരു പരാധം ഇടയിടെ കുറച്ചുകാലമായി കേൾക്കുന്നുണ്ട്. കൈക്കൂലി വാങ്ങിക്കുന്ന ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ പോലീസ് ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിലുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ അതു അവരുടെ കുറവല്ല. അവരുമായി അടുത്തു പെരുമാറുന്ന യാളുകൾ ചില ശുപാർശകൾ ചെയ്താൽ ഇരുപത്തഞ്ചോ മുപ്പതോ രൂപ വാങ്ങിക്കുന്നതുള്ളൂ സംഭവ്യമാണ്. ഇതിലധികവും കൊടുക്കുന്നവരാണ് കുറ്റക്കാർ. യഥാർത്ഥത്തിൽ അഭിനന്ദനാർഹമായ വിധത്തിൽ ജോലിചെയ്യുന്നപോലീസ് ഇൻസ്പെക്ടർമാർക്കു വേണ്ടതരത്തിലുള്ള പ്രോത്സാഹനങ്ങൾ നൽകുന്നില്ല. അടുത്തകാലത്തു് ഒരു നിർദ്ധനനായ ഈഴവൻ ഒരു പാട്ടപ്പുരയിടത്തിൽ താമസിച്ചുകൊണ്ടു കുറേശ്ശവസ്തുസമ്പാദിച്ചു തുടങ്ങി. ഇപ്രകാരം വസ്തു സമ്പാദിച്ചതെങ്ങിനെയാണെന്നന്വേഷിച്ചു

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പ്പോൾ അവന് ഒരു നിധി കിട്ടി എന്നു പറഞ്ഞു. പോലീസ ഇൻസ്പെക്ടർ ചെന്നു അവന് നിധികിട്ടിയ സ്ഥലം പരിശോധിച്ചശേഷം താമസിക്കുന്ന മാടത്തിൽ കയറിനോക്കിയപ്പോൾ ആ മാടത്തിന്റെ തറയിൽ വിടവുകൾ കാണുവാനിടയായി ആ സ്ഥലം കുഴിപ്പിച്ചുനോക്കിയപ്പോൾ ഏതാനും ചില അങ്കികളും പ്രഭയും മറ്റുമൊക്കെ സ്വർണ്ണത്തിലുള്ളതു് അവിടെ കണ്ടു. അവൻ ഒരു ദേവസ്വത്തിലെ ഭണ്ഡാരം മുറിച്ചു വിഗ്രഹങ്ങളും മറ്റും മോഷ്ടിച്ചുകൊണ്ടുവച്ചിരുന്നതാണ് ഈ നിധി. പോലീസ് ഇൻസ്പെക്ടർ ഈ കേസ് വളരെ സാമർത്ഥ്യത്തോടുകൂടി കണ്ടു പിടിച്ചു. ഈ ദേവസ്വത്തിലെ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ പ്രസ്തുത പോലീസ് ഇൻസ്പെക്ടർക്കു ഒരു മെഡൽ സമ്മാനം കൊടുക്കണമെന്നു നിശ്ചയിച്ചു പോലീസ് കമ്മീഷണരുടെ അനുവാദത്തിനായി അപേക്ഷിച്ചു. കേസ് ശിക്ഷയിൽ വന്നതിനുശേഷം മെഡൽ സമ്മാനിക്കാമെന്നു പോലീസ് കമ്മീഷണർ അറിയിച്ചു. കേസ് ശിക്ഷിച്ചു് വളരെക്കാലം കഴിഞ്ഞിട്ടും മെഡൽ സമ്മാനിക്കാനുള്ള അനുവാദം ഇതുവരെയും കൊടുത്തിട്ടില്ല. ഇങ്ങനെ സ്വകൃത്യം സാമർത്ഥ്യത്തോടുകൂടി നിർവഹിക്കുന്ന ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരെ പൊതുജനങ്ങൾ പ്രോത്സാഹിപ്പിക്കുവാൻ ഉദ്യമിച്ചാൽപോലും അതിനു തക്കതായ അവസരം പോലീസ് കമ്മീഷണർ കൊടുക്കുന്നില്ല.

പോലീസ് ഇൻസ്പെക്ടർമാരിൽ ചിലർക്കെല്ലാം ൨൫ രൂപയും ൩൫ രൂപയും, ആക്ടിംഗ അലവൻസ് ഫ്രീ മുക്കാൽ രൂപയുമാണു ശമ്പളം. ഉദ്യോഗകളിലെല്ലാം ഇവർക്കു കുറെ സ്ഥിതിയുണ്ടെന്നാണ് വയ്പ്പു്. പത്തുരൂപ വാടക കൊടുക്കാതെ കെട്ടിടം കിട്ടുകയില്ല. കുടുംബച്ചിലവു നിർവഹിക്കണം, സ്വന്തം കുട്ടികളെ പരിരക്ഷിച്ചുയോഗ്യമായ നിലയിൽ ജീവിക്കാൻ ഇവരുടെ ശമ്പളം മതിയാകാതാണിരിക്കുന്നതു. ഇവരെ ശരിയായ വിധത്തിൽ പ്രോത്സാഹിപ്പിക്കേണ്ടതാണു.

ഇപ്പോൾ ട്രാഫിക് ഇൻസ്പെക്ടർമാരുണ്ടു്. ഇതുപോലെ ഇൻസ്പെക്ടർമാർ ഇവിടെ ആവശ്യമില്ല. ഇവരിൽ നാലുപേരെ കുറവുചെയ്തശേഷമുള്ളവർക്കു ടി. എ കൂടുതൽ കൊടുത്തു് ഓരോ ഇൻസ്പെക്ടരെ ഓരോ ഡിസ്ട്രിക്ടിലും നിയമിച്ചാൽ ഇന്നത്തെക്കാൾ ജോലി കാര്യക്ഷമമായിനടക്കും.

അടുത്തകാലത്തു് വ കാൺസ്റ്റബിൾമാരെ ഡിസ്മിസ് ചെയ്തതായി കേട്ടു. അവരെ മേലോന്മത്തന്മാരാക്കി ഉറക്കി അടിപ്പിക്കുന്നതിനു പ്രോത്സാഹിപ്പിച്ചയാളുകളെ ഒന്നും ചെയ്യാതെ പാവപ്പെട്ട കാണസ്റ്റ

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[Mr. Kalloor Narayana Pillai.]

ബി.മാരെ ഡിസ്മിസ് ചെയ്തത് ഒട്ടും തന്നെ ശരിയല്ല. അവരെ അതിലേക്കു പ്രേരിപ്പിച്ചവർക്കു കാൽരൂപയോ അര രൂപയോ ഫൈൻ ചെയ്താൽപോരാ. അങ്ങിനെയുള്ളവരെ വേണം ശരിയായ രീതിയിൽ ശിക്ഷിക്കാൻ.

സി. ഐ. ഡി. വകുപ്പിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചാണ് ഇനി എനിക്കു പറയുവാനുള്ളത്. സി. ഐ. ഡി. വകുപ്പിൽ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസവിഹീനന്മാരായ ചിലരെ നിയമിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്. അടുത്ത ഒരവസരത്തിൽ മി. ഇ. വി. കൃഷ്ണപിള്ള മരിച്ചോ ഇല്ലയോ എന്നുള്ള സംശയിയിൽ ഒരു സി. ഐ. ഡിക്കാരനു സംശയം നേരിട്ട് അന്വേഷണം തുടങ്ങി. തമ്പാനൂർ ഹാളിൽവച്ച് കൂടിയ ഒരു യോഗത്തിൽ വന്ദ്യനായ മി. മള്ളൂർ ഗോവിന്ദപ്പിള്ള മലയാള സാഹിത്യമുള്ളിടത്തോളം കാലം മി. ഇ. വി. മരിച്ചിട്ടില്ല, മരിക്കയുമില്ല." എന്നു പറഞ്ഞു ഇതു കേട്ടിട്ട് സി. ഐ. ഡിക്കാരൻ ഇ. വി. കൃഷ്ണപിള്ള വാസ്തവത്തിൽ എവിടെയോ ഒളിച്ചിരിക്കയാണെന്നു വിചാരിച്ചു (ചിരി) ശരിയായ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസമില്ലാത്തവരെ സി ഐ. ഡിയിൽ നിയമിച്ചാലുള്ള ദോഷമിങ്ങനെയാണ്, സി. ഐ. ഡിയിൽ എപ്പോഴും യോഗ്യന്മാരെയും നല്ല കുടുംബത്തിലുള്ളവരെയും നല്ല വിദ്യാഭ്യാസമുള്ളവരെയും നോക്കി നിയമിക്കേണ്ടതാണ്. ഇന്നത്തെ സി. ഐ. ഡി. റിപ്പോർട്ട് വിശ്വാസയോഗ്യമല്ല എന്നുള്ളതു് എല്ലാവർക്കും അറിയാവുന്ന ഒരു സംഗതിയാണ് ഇതിനു് ഒരു പരിഹാരം ഉടനടി ഉണ്ടാക്കണം. ഇത്രയുംപ്രസ്താവിച്ചുകൊണ്ടു് വിരമിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

Mr. K. R. Elenkath: Sir, I belong to none of the conflicting parties and I wish to make a few observations on some important things with the best interest of the country at heart and without prejudice or bias. I would first of all deal with the C. I. D. menace in the State. Sir, in the interests of the State and in the interests of the citizens of the State, I would ask the Government to abolish altogether this section of the department. Sir, the C. I. D. Department has been, to a large extent, contributing much to the unrest and misunderstandings as between officials and officials, as between officials and non-officials and as between non-officials themselves. Sir, it is quite improper for a C. I. D. to be let on the trail of the movements of an honest officer on some assumed suspicion. Sir, there are C. I. Ds. watching us and we cannot visit such non-officials who hold a particular political opinion Even the officials are not allowed to visit them even though they are their relatives or friends of long standing. Sir, for example a

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responsible officer may have business transactions with a non-official who hold political views other than his. And if he visits the non-official once or more than once he is suspected to be in league with the non-official. And this sort of impression on the part of Government shakes his devotion and loyalty to the Government and he may, at times, become subersive though not apparently. Now, Sir, it was a surprise to me to know that one of the big officials in the country did not even invite for a marriage function a bosom friend of his, a person who was his classmate all through his educational career, because that friend was holding a different political view.

Therefore, Sir, it may be to the best advantage of Government to allow their officers to have free talks with such non-officials who hold so-called subversive and disloyal views so that they might be converted to the Government side. But to breed and let loose suepicion and ranker among the place of public life is no advantage to Government and sometimes it may prove dangerous to them.

Now, Sir, as between officials and non-officials there may be people related to or who are friends of the officials who may hold different views in politics. But to suspect such officials to be in league with their relations or friends whose political view Government do not countenance will not in any way be advantageous to public life. Sometimes the insinuating C. I. Ds. may cook up report which may do havoc to the careers of these officers. At other times, some school boys, as an act of bravado, may utter things about Government and its doings which a C. I. D. may hear and report to Government. If Government were to take cognisance of it, then I think, Sir, about 90 per cent. of the school boys may have to be punished. But I shall not proceed to deal with matter about which I have no detailed knowledge.

Sir, before I close I must deal with one subject which I cannot desist remarking. That is about the treatment meted to the college students. Sir, I do not agree with the view that the college students should be allowed to have their own way. But I am of the opinion that the situation might have been controlled by the officers responsible and I doubt whether such a contingency as a lathi charge would have ever arisen. Sir, I ask whether the Commissioner of Police or the District Magistrate could not have averted the situation if they had risked some stone throwings and saved much innocent blood. Sir, even an outsider, Mr. Watkis, was the least afraid of being hurt and he moved with the students and pleaded with them to quit the place. And I am one of those who believe that the students are amenable to reason. As an instance of this, I shall just quote an incident which took place in 1097 during

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[Mr. K. R. Elenkath.]

the students strike. Sir, I happened to be near the Cochar stream when a crowd of students were rushing in procession and when they reached the spot where there was a constable on duty, they crowded around the constable and was just going to handle him mischievously. Sir, then it struck me that some immediate action was necessary to save the constable from being lynched. Because I was well known with the students, as I am one who is bred and brought up in Trivandrum, I rushed to the constable, caught hold of his hand, and along with him we went to a Vakil's office nearby and got him inside a room. Just then I came outside and told the boys that a petty constable who was getting Rs. 7 or 8 was not responsible for the alleged high handedness that were shown to them and if they persisted in these sorts of mischievous deeds, they would loose the sympathy of the people who had then seen righteousness on the students' cause. Then I asked them to get back the cap of the constable which they had taken forcibly from him and thrown on the road.

Sir, I appealed to them to get back the cap which was flying and it was instantaneously brought up from the Kochar stream. I point out this incident to show that if the people can persuade the students to do the right, certainly they, being more educated and more cultured than the low-paid police servants, will obey the law. I only point out these incidents to show that if these Government subordinates have any idea of the policy of His Higness the Maharaja, to whom by tradition and instinct the safety of the humblest of the humblest is the anxious concern, I would certainly say, these officers including the professors, could have gone to the spot and risked some stone throw and even a few drops of blood to avoid the calamity of streams of blood flowing from the heads of boys.

President: The honourable member has two minutes more.

Mr. K. R. Elenkath: I only wanted to point out that these incidents could have been avoided if proper action has been taken. I know that Government are the target of criticism in this connection, because of the thoughtlessness of the officials, because every action of the subordinates is put at the head of the Government and the Government make no response to them. If these Government servants therefore could be responsible for the duties entrusted to them, such calamitous incidents could have been averted.

President: The honourable member will finish soon.

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Mr. K. R. Elenkath: Sir, a word about the question which Mr. Kalloor Narayana Pillai mentioned. I cannot agree with the opinion expressed by him in support of his argument. As has been well expressed elsewhere, this Village Vigilence Committees are doing greater harm than good. These constables and head contables are only tools of corruption and they merely share the spoils of corruption. The sooner the thing is abolished it is better. Why should there be a Village Vigilence Committee? Each Inspector can go to the village and get information. So, I would appeal to the Government that the Vigilence Committee System should be totaly abolished and that the Government will see that everything is done by the officers.

Sir, with regard to the punishment of officers, these punishments show that Government had directly nothing to do with these actions. I would congratulate the Government for the immediate transfer of Mr. Lathif from the station and putting in a scruplously honest inspector in this place. I would also congratulate our Government for putting a scrupulously honest commissioner in the place of the most contemptuous commissioner.

Mr. Nedumangad R. Kesavan Nair: Sir, I oppose the demand. I am doing it with a view to point out to the Government the utter inefficiency of the Police Department, as would be seen from a number of incidents that took place in this metropolis for the last so many months, in quick succession. Sir, what was it that we are having here. Was it not a regular police *raj*? Was it not a regular reign of terror? They were having assaults on innonocent persons and that has become the order of the day. Burglary on the houses of innocent persons was on the increase. If only the Government had moved their little finger to alleviate these, many calamities could have been averted. Sir, the matter has become so stale that I feel constrained to speak about it. Week after week a number of incidents that have been discussed elsewhere occurred in quick succession. A series of articles published continuously in the newspapers in Travancore and elsewhere are being brought to the attention of the Government to no purpose. Sir, as I said, a number of unjustifiable assaults took place on innocent persons by unknown persons. It started with the assault on Mr. Madhava Warrier, an ex-M. L. C., an honest citizen and a journalist of considerable repute. This was followed by the assault on Mr. Muthalali who could not see eye to eye with the Government in political matters. When the matter was brought to the attention of the Dewan by means of a series of adjournment motions, he assured that something could be done. The then Commissioner of Police advanced a challenge stating that if he had been appraised of it earlier it would have heen

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[Mr. Nedumangad R. Kesavan Nair]

easier for him to detect the offender. Did not the incident take place under the very nose of the Chief Secretary ? Was it not before the Public Gardens and the Zoo, where a number of persons resort during the evening, that this incident occurred ? The Commissioner says that Mr. Madhava Warrier was assaulted by a lunatic "who descended from the heavens and about whom there is no.....

President. I don't think that that announcement was made.

Mr. Nedumangad R. Kesavan Nair: Of course he did not say that the lunatic descended from the heavens but he was of the opinion that nothing was known about the lunatic. What was it that Madhava Warrier did that deserved such an attack ? In the case of Mr. Muthalali the Police Commissioner says that he was given a gentle blow with a thin cane about one inch thick.....

Mr. M. Ramachandra Rao: No, that was not true.

President: Order, order; honourable members should address the Chair.

Mr. Nedumangad R. Kesavan Nair: Sir, I am not concerned with the dimensions of the cane. I will leave it at that. I do not say anything more about the assaults on Mr. Muthalali or Mr. Warrier. It has been sufficiently adverted to. But these acts do not stop there. A series of assaults of a strange nature were made on State Congress members in quick succession. They have become the subjects of assaults; their belongings are robbed; burglaries are committed in their houses and other insults are offered to them. In the fury of these "unknown assailants" even ladies are not spared.

Mr. N. V. Chacko: Is it because they are members of the State Congress or because they are lawyers ?

Mr. Nedumangad R. Kesavan Nair: If any faith could be placed on circumstantial evidence, it is because they are members of the State Congress and not because they are members of the legal profession. Membership of the State Congress is their disability.

Sir, the next incident was in respect of Miss Annie Mascrene another member of the State Congress. A burglary of a strange nature took place in her house. What was it that could be said against Miss Mascrene excepting the fact that she is after all, the only lady member of the State Congress. What became of the number of memorials that she has addressed to the Dewan ? I am reading a portion of the sentences that she has sent to you. "New devices are....."

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Mr. Kottur Kunjukrishna Pillai: Sir, I rise to a point of order. Can a member refer to a document which has not been placed before the House, in the course of the discussion?

President: No. The usual rule is that if an honourable member is to quote from a document that document has to be placed before the House.

Mr. Nedumangad R. Kesavan Nair: Yes, Sir. Suffice it to say that a series of letters have been addressed to the Dewan by Miss Mascrene which remain unheaded. That stops the Miss Mascrene incident.

Then there is one Parameswaran Nair, a member of the State Congress, who was assaulted during this period. I heard the Police Commissioner stating that he was assaulted by persons who were collecting sand from the Karamanai river near Kunchalumoodu. I would request the Commissioner of Police to learn the topography of Trivandrum and know for himself whether any river flows through Kunchalumoodu. It is so strange.

Sir, our doubts and apprehensions were confirmed when the most unhappy incident took place. I mean, the unkindest assault on our Secretary Mr. K. P. Nilakanta Pillai. This is a matter which is *sub judice*. The assailants were captured. But, we all know *how* the assailants were captured.

These are the assaults and burglaries that took place and excepting one incident, all the rest took place in the jurisdiction of one inspector who is on leave and about whose transfer Mr. Elenkath congratulated the Police Commissioner. Under ordinary circumstances, if a citizen is unjustly assaulted what would the Police Commissioner do? If the Commissioner and his array of D. S.Ps, A. S. Ps, Inspectors and the army of police constables are not able to trace out these "*unknown*" assailants how could the public be expected to have confidence in the police? Sir, a series of circumstances inevitably lead us to draw the conclusion that there is some body some invisible agency to frame the whole thing. There appears to be a hand that regulates and contr ls the whole show. That stops there Mr. K. P. Nilakanta Pillai was assaulted, his ribs were fractured, and that was in the jurisdiction of Mr Lathif.

President: The ribs were fractured I thought the ribs were here.

Mr. Nedumangad R. Kesavan Nair: Sir, I mean his elbows: It is the.....

President: I am sorry: I see emotion carries away honourable member. But all the same, ribs and elbows must be distinguished (*Laughter.*)

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Mr. Nedumangad R. Kesavan Nair: Sir, it is not emotion, it is the struggle for existing in this country.

President: Even in the struggle for existence there must be some distinction made between ribs and elbows. Yes, honourable member will proceed.

Mr. Nedumangad R. Kesavan Nair: Sir, regarding the physiognomy I am not much concerned.

President: It is physiology and not physiognomy. (*Laughter*)

Mr. Nedumangad R. Kesavan Nair: Sir, it is not the result of emotion, but it is the instinct of self preservation that makes me bring all these things to your notice. I think it is only in the fitness of things that I should give a personal explanation and I assert once again that I referred to these things as a result of the instinct of self preservation and not of emotion. It is the desire to live in this country that is uppermost in my mind. Whatever it might be, the assault on Mr. K. P. Nilakanta Pillai took place and a series of house burglaries also took place. We know that some of the assailants were detected. Miss Mascrene's case shows that she was prepared to give evidence; but the police were not prepared to accept them. To add insult to injury, the Commissioner of Police threatened her with criminal prosecution for some statements that she made. Any way, the question was dropped. I leave the matter there.

A number of acts of vandalism prompted by the police occurred in this town during these past few months. I was an eye witness to some of these. Probably you may not be in the know of things. Sir, you may be getting wrong reports of it from interested persons. I had the misfortune to see all these. I was present when Mr. Nariman came to Trivandrum. I know how the irresponsible D. S. P. of Trivandrum behaved on that occasion. The police brought a number of rowdies from Valiathurai. There was one Chacko, then one E. S. Kriman and Kochu Asanar, who were accused in criminal cases. They were prompted by the police to parade with black flags. If necessary I will mention the number of cases in which they were charged and I shall furnish any information that the Commissioner might require.

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi: May I know whether the Commissioner alone can get the credit or whether District Magistrate of Trivandrum too gets the credit?

Mr. Nedumangad R. Kesavan Nair: Yes: the District Magistrate of Trivandrum also may take the credit if he wants.

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Sir, I was the most unwilling witness to many of these incidents. Your literary genius Sathyanesan... ...

President: I don't think he belongs to me.

Mr. Nedumangad R. Kesavan Nair: Sir, he belongs to the Government Text Book Committee. Sir, he was the only factor that disturbed the meeting at Neyyattinkara. It was not a gathering of five hundred persons as the subsidised A. P. I. has mentioned. It was a gathering of nearly 7000. This Sathyanesan and a motor conductor, Ramakrishnan were the only persons who disturbed the meeting at Neyyattinkara. There were a lot of Police Inspectors there. But, they never moved a finger to enable the persons gathered there to conduct the meeting. They passively allowed these two to continue their ill motived interruptions. If the police officers had the least sense of responsibility in them they should have asked these hired interruptors either to sit quiet or to clear out.

Sir, it is stated that the State Congress is a subversive and disloyal body. If Mr. Pattom Thanu Pillai or Mr. Vasudevan Pillai a member of the State Congress and a leading Vakil and citizen of Neyyattinkara—had anything of disloyalty or of the subversive in them, this Satyanesan and Ramakrishnan would have been pulverised by the people that had assembled there. But Mr. Thanu Pillai and the other leaders of the State Congress, consistent with their creed of non-violence, appealed to the audience and prayed to them saying "Leave them alone ; let us not mar the effect of our agitation". And then, when the D. S. P. rushed to the spot and said that the meeting should be dispersed, without a murmer, without a protest, we obeyed. The next meeting was at Chengannur. There also, if the State Congress was really a subversive body, if Mr. Philipose had shown the least resentment, things would have been otherwise. I do not wish to say what the fate of the police could have been.

Mr. N. V. Chacko: What happened to Mr. Philipose at Chengannur ?

Mr. Nedumangad R. Kesavan Nair: He was slippered in the most cruel manner.

Mr. N. V. Chacko: With new slippers or with old ones ?

Mr. Nedumangad R. Kesavan Nair: An old one, I think. (*Laughter.*)

Sir, if he had not been a follower of non-violence, if he had not followed the tenets of Mahatma Gandhi, things would have been otherwise.

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[Mr. Nedumangad R. Kesavan Nair.]

I am not reiterating the incidents at Shertalla and other places which have already been discussed. One word more about the Mavelikara election about which a sufficient number of pamphlets have been published, but none of which the Director of Information has contradicted. The police went about canvassing votes against the State Congress. I am sure that many of my honourable friends here would vouch for the accuracy of the statement published by Mr. Thanu Pillai, the President of the State Congress, which also has not been contradicted.

Mr. Kottur Kunjukrishna Pillai: Question.

Mr. Nedumangad R. Kesavan Nair: To say the least of it, it is scandalous if the allegations made by Mr. Thanu Pillai are true; and I have absolutely no doubt that they are true.

With your permission, Sir, I may just make one submission about the lathi charge at the Science College.

President: We have 30 minutes more for this Demand, and you have taken 17 minutes already.

Mr. Nedumangad R. Kesavan Nair: Sir, I have not much to say about the lathi charge at the Science College since my friend Mr. Elenkath has already adverted to it. But, Sir, look at the circumstances which led to that lathi charge. One honourable member of the Assembly moved a motion stating that there was some possibility of their being molested, and that therefore they must be protected; immediately the military and the police gathered round the Science College, and the cavalry and the police unauthorisedly entered the Science College and butchered the students. Sir, can we not conclude that two and two together make four? Could there be any doubt as to who is responsible for the lathi charge? In conclusion, Sir, I have only to say that, if the A. P. I. or the other subsidised papers do not publish full facts about these incidents and conceal things for the rest of the world there is *God* above who will certainly bear witness to all these. That is all that I have to say.

Mr. Kottur Kunjukrishna Pillai: Sir, I wish to offer a few remarks about the Police.

President: Honourable member will remember that, since I gave sufficient lattitude to the last speaker, we have only 20 minutes more for the time allotted for the demand to expire. It expires at 3-40. So the honourable member will conolude in about 10 minutes.

Mr. Kottur Kunjukrishna Pillai: Sir, we have been treated to very old stories beginning with the assault on Mr. Madhava Warrier and the other familiar incidents that have been

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mentioned in season and out of season, here and elsewhere, by way of adjournment motions and otherwise, repeated *ad nauseum* so that we almost see the sight of a dead horse being whipped into life. Sir, there was perhaps something when these things were first mentioned, and the attention of the Government was drawn to them. But, by endless repetition and exaggeration, by utter disregard of truth in the statements made by the advocates on behalf of a certain sectin, these have become nauseating to a degree which, I am sorry, I cannot characterise in parliamentary language, so that I refrain from referring to them at all. About the Chengannur incident alone, I wish to say a word or two.

President: No, it is *sub judice*.

Mr. Kottur Kunjukrishna Pillai: I shall not refer to it, Sir, then.

The Police Department, I feel sure, exists for the purpose of maintaining law and order in this country. I too have got complaints against the police. Are they doing all they can to maintain law and order, to keep up the dignity of law, to uphold the freedom of movement and of speech of every member of the public, whatever be his political opinion? Sir, the air is full of threats, threats that the law will be disobeyed, threats that a particular political party is being treated by the Government as a plenipotentiary on behalf of the people of this State. Rumours are afloat that conversation is going on, correspondence is going on.....

President: What is the honourable member referring to?

Mr. Kottur Kunjukrishna Pillai: I am referring to the statement issued by Mr. G. Ramachandran to the much-maligned A. P. I.

President: What is that? I do not quite follow.

Mr. Kottur Kunjukrishna Pillai: Mr. G. Ramachandran has published a statement that correspondence is going on between the State Congress Leader and the Government.

President: There has been no correspondence going on between the State Congress Leader and the Government, which is not public property already, which is confidential.

Mr. Kottur Kunjukrishna Pillai: Whatever may be the truth that is how people are being hoodwinked. Mr. Ramachandran has made a statement just as Mahatma Gandhi was making statements before he started the civil disobedience movement in British India.

Mr. R. V. Thomas: Is the honourable member in order in referring to the statement made by Mr. G. Ramachandran, which statement has not been placed before us.

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President: Mr. Kottur Kunjukrishna Pillai is making some kind of statement apparently, the relevancy of which I have not yet fully understood. He says that somebody is going to release some correspondence between his party and the Government. Firstly there has been no such confidential correspondence which has yet to be released. Secondly, I do not see how it is all relevant to the present demand.

Mr. Kottur Kunjukrishna Pillai: But that statement has not been contradicted.

President: I do not think it arises under the Police Demand.

Mr. Kottur Kunjukrishna Pillai: Sir, my only point is that that is how things are going on; and the police are taking no action whatever to prevent the apprehension in the minds of the public regarding the various activities which are undermining the prestige of law and disturbing the faith on the part of the law-abiding public.

President: I do not think the honourable member can deal with the matter that way. Honourable members have seen it published in newspapers that a certain section will be doing some thing tomorrow or the day after, or some time later. Therefore, if the honourable member will wait for a few days more and see what happens, then it will be time enough for him to blame the Police Department or the Government, not now.

Mr. Kottur Kunjukrishna Pillai: Sir, in addition to this statement that I have referred to, regular propaganda is being carried on. Every day, in the Central Station Maidan meetings—

President: How does it arise under the Police Demand?

Mr. Kottur Kunjukrishna Pillai: The police ought to prevent these things; they are not doing it. They are waiting for situations to be created. Sir, every day, people are losing their sense of law; the dignity of law is being trampled under. I am very sorry to find that the Police Department does not in any way serve the interests of the law-abiding people of the State. Sir, I myself listened, from above the railway station, to what was going on in one meeting at least, and I could hear vulgar abuse being showered by irresponsible men, under the guidance, under the inspiration of the State Congress leaders; and all these youngsters are members of the State Congress.

President: I do not think it is open now to the honourable member to go into what may be called the details of the proceedings of any meeting held near the railway station or elsewhere. He will, as far as possible, confine himself to the police.

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Mr. Kottur Kunjukrishna Pillai: I want to draw the attention of the department to the propaganda that is going on and to the fact that the police are not raising their little finger to prevent such undesirable propaganda.

Sir, it has been pointed out that they are following the creed of non-violence, and that but for that my friend Mr. Satyanesan would have been pulverised at Neyyattinkara. Sir, for what would he have been pulverised that day? Nothing but his ventilating his opinion at a public meeting held in his own locality. Sir, that is the type of non-violence that we have here. It was really a great thing that they did not pulverise Mr. Satyanesan for what he did. After all, Sir, it was a meeting convened on behalf of the public, and every body was entitled to express his opinion; in fact, the President of the meeting had assured Mr. Satyanesan that he would be given an opportunity to have his say. Sir, it was the President, who did not have the courage to face the situation, concluded the meeting all on a sudden and deceived Mr. Satyanesan, a public worker, a representative of an important community, by not giving him as promised an opportunity to ventilate his views on the particular matter which formed the subject of the meeting. Is that fairness, I ask, on the part of the leaders of a political party?

President: Will the honourable member please confine himself to the Police Department?

Mr. Kottur Kunjukrishna Pillai: With regard to the allegations made against the Police Department about their excesses, what I have to complain, on the other hand, is that the Police Department is not doing its duty properly, not maintaining peace and order properly, and that it ought to be more vigilant in the matter of safeguarding the interest of the public. (*Hear, hear.*)

Sir, it has been pointed out by some of my honourable friends that the Vigilance Committees are not working properly. On the one hand there is the opinion held out that more and more the public ought to be taken into the confidence of the Government. Sir, the police have necessarily to take people from among the public. If, therefore, we say that the Vigilance Committee should be avoided, it would merely amount to admitting that we have not got sufficient civic sense, civic responsibility, to do the work for which non-official bodies are constituted. It is an admission of incompetence; and people who advocate immediate responsible Government and all the rest of it ought to consider these aspects very carefully before they express their criticisms on these matters.

In regard to the various points elaborated by my friend Mr. Kesavan Nair, I must admit, Sir, that I cannot freely use the kind of language which he has been using. I would only repeat that

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the police are not sufficiently active in preserving law and order, and ought to be more vigilant in preserving the rights and liberties of law-abiding citizens.

President: Three or four honourable members have given me their names with the idea that they are anxious to speak on this demand. I shall call upon either Mr. N. V. Chacko or Mr. R. V. Thomas of the State Congress party, and then call upon the Commissioner of Police.

Mr. N. V. Chacko: Sir, unfortunately, we are not growing from our old age to our younger days. There was only one known instance of building from the top downwards. It is said that Goethe's father tried to build his house from the top downwards. Since we have been growing from youth to old age, we know quite well what we used to feel in our student days. Students have a general feeling of repulsion against the policeman. The sight of a policeman in their midst is a cause of excitement to the students. In the students' strike of 1097, they were saying "തീപ്പട്ടിക്കാലുകൾ ഞങ്ങളുടെ ഇടയിൽ വരരുതു." What they wanted was that the policemen should disappear from their sight. I do not know why the students and pupils should have such disgust for the policeman. They were not taught so at home by their parents, or in the schools and colleges by their teachers and professors. Whatever the reason, that is the way of the students not only of Travancore but throughout the Universe.

Mr. Kottur Kunjukrishna Pillai: Is that the case with the students in the frontier regions also?

Mr. N. V. Chacko: Frontier of what? Travancore or the Universe?

Mr. Kottur Kunjukrishna Pillai: Travancore.

Mr. N. V. Chacko: The students belonging to the frontier taluks of Travancore are undoubtedly only better in their culture, manners, behaviours, and in every other respect than the students of the central and southern parts of Travancore as I had occasion to know from personal experience.

What I say is if the students do anything wrong within their own college compounds or premises they should be taken to task only by their professors and not by any body else. If the students throw stones or do the worst that they can possibly do from the college compounds the public should keep themselves out of range of any harm. We shall never allow anybody to enter the college and school compounds to trouble the students and pupils who shall be amenable only to discipline of the professors and teachers. If the students do any mischief within the college compounds their professors

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should be held responsible for it ; and if any lathi charge is to be made in the college compounds, it should be on the professors and not on the students. If the roads by the college are not safe for the public from the students they may be fortified like the frontiers of France.

One thing also I find. There is something wrong with the Travancore Police. I do not know whether it is the labour pains or death pangs,that we are noticing about them. We are told that "those whom the gods wish to destroy, they first make blind "

President : It is "mad" and not "blind."

Mr. N. V. Chacko : First blind and then mad also.

President : According to the quotation it is only "mad."

Mr. N V. Chacko : Yes Sir, and I would add "blind" also. With regard to the police, the present order of things has to change yielding place to new, and the fates may be weaving their webs for that purpose. I am referring to what the reserve police have been doing during the time of Rajya raksha pravina, in the northern parts of the State. Some fourteen people were bathing or doing some such thing in a river. They were asked by the reserve police to stand on the bank face to face in pairs and assault each other. A son who refused to assault his father was very violently assaulted by the reserve police until the son was forced to assault his father with equal violence. An excellent example for the Travancore reserve police to set.

President : Does the honourable member make himself responsible for the statement.

Mr. N V. Chacko : I do, Sir. Another example is of a man who took toddy from a shop under the auspices of the Government.....

President : Order, order. Was the incident of people beating each other or the son beating the father ever brought to the notice of either the Government or the Police Commissioner ?

Mr. N V. Chacko : Yes, Sir. It was brought to the notice of the authority by means of petition &c. and I understand that the people who sent the petition are being coerced to withdraw the petition.

President : I put that question because I make it a principle to go through every petition that I receive and till now I have never heard of any such thing. So I just wanted to know whether the honourable member will make himself responsible for the statement made by him.

Mr. N. V. Chacko : Sir, I will not go on with instances. One instance is quite sufficient. The people of Travancore appear to worship the police. It was once said by Burke in the

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[Mr. N. V. Chacko.]

House of Commons that the people of India worshiped not only gods that helped them but those gods and goddesses also that did, or were capable of doing harm to them. Whenever the people make a statement the police and the Government make assertions and denials contradicting it without any basis. I am reminded of what the Duke of Willingdon told his subaltern. The Duke once said that he found a rat in a wine bottle. His subaltern timorously suggested that it must have been a very small rat. The Duke asserted that it was a damn big rat. Then the subaltern added that the mouth of the bottle must have been very wide. The Duke asserted again that it was a damn narrow mouthed bottle. The people will not be taking the assertions and denials of the Government and the police as the subaltern took the assertions of the Duke.

President: The Police Commissioner will now speak.

Mr. M. Ramachandra Rao: Sir, I have heard the remarks from several members. I beg to classify them under different heads. I would first refer to the assaults, burglaries and other excesses about the Police. As far as I have seen from the records. (I think the House knows that I took charge of the department only about a month back) in the case of Mr. Warrier, when he was going along the Museum Road, somebody came from behind him, gave a slap on his back with a cane and ran away into the lane leading to Nathencode. Mr. Warrier went to the traffic constable near by and told him about the incident. But the traffic constable, as all know, is a stable man and could not leave his place. The man ran away in day light and unfortunately, Mr. Warrier could not say who he was. So, the man has not yet been identified. The second instance is that of Mr. Muthalali. He was walking along the road and as he was walking there was a man going on a bike along that road. Mr. Muthalali wanted to cross the road, but he could not cross it fast enough. So, the cyclist was about to dash Mr. Muthalali. He alighted from his bike and gave a slap on his back and said that he should not be in the way of wheeled traffic. He then got on his bike and then got away. This is what happened. These are the two assaults which were mencioned. Mr. K. P. Nilakanta Pillai's assault is *sub judice* and so I shall not refer to it. From the nature of the cases it will be seen that the police could never have been instrumental in those assaults.

Then, about the burglaries, unfortunately the burglaries in the houses of two members of the State Congress alone have been selected by the honourable members. There have been so many other burglaries which have not been found out. In all, there have been twenty cases of burglaries here.

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Mr. Nedumangad R. Kesavan Nair: Did any of the State Congress cases clear up ?

Mr. M. Ramachandra Rao: I do not know. In regard to the burglaries I cannot classify them as burglaries in the houses of the State Congress members and the burglaries in the houses of non-State Congress people.

Mr. Nedumangad R. Kesavan Nair: I wanted to know..... .....

Mr. M. Ramachandra Rao: I am not yielding my place.

President: Official members are expected to yield their places when questions are sought to be put to them.

Mr. Nedumangad R. Kesavan Nair: I wanted to know whether any of the burglaries that took place in the houses of the State Congress members, *viz.*, Miss Mascarene and Mr. Govinda Menon, has cleared up.

Mr. M. Ramachandra Rao: Sir, in Miss Mascarene's house Rs. 85 and a wrist watch were taken and in Mr. Govinda Menon's house his clerk's drawer was rummaged and Rs. 3¾ and one *mundu* were taken away. In all these cases, if there is a big theft, there are many things which could be identified and detected soon. But in a case where money is stolen it is difficult to trace the burglar.

Mr. Nedmaugad R. Kesavan Nair: I did not ask the amount that was stolen. I wanted to know whether any of those two cases has cleared up.

Mr. M. Ramachandra Rao: Sir, along with those two cases there have been twenty cases. Judge Kumaran came and told me that his gold chain was lost. There were also other cases. To pick out those two cases alone and to say that they happened because the persons belonged to the State Congress is far-fetched. That is just what I wanted to submit to the House. To attribute to the police that they want only to persecute the State Congress people is certainly going too far, because I have been seeing that they have been convening so many meetings in the guise of the Youth League and the Kerala Boy's Movement and so on, without any interference of the police.

Mr. Nedumangad R. Kesavan Nair: May I point out to the honourable member that the persecution referred to related to persecution before the honourable member took charge as Police Commissioner.

Mr. M. Ramachandra Rao: Even before I took charge I knew there were meetings at Trivandrum and at Neyyattinkara which were conducted very well. From the records of other

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[Mr. M. Ramachandra Rao.]

meetings I see that unfortunately in every one of those places there have been two parties one party for the State Congress and another party against the State Congress and that when there were meetings, naturally they came into clash with each other. To attribute any hand in that matter to the police is something far-fetched. Now, every day they hold meetings and I have been watching these meetings. There have been no disturbances. I am protecting the State Congress people as much as I protect anybody else. I am therefore deeply pained to hear the House say that the police are responsible for disturbances at meetings convened by the State Congress party.

Mr. Nedumangad R. Kesavan Nair: So are we.

Mr. M. Ramachandra Rao: I now come to the general charges made against the department, that is, inefficiency and corruption. As regards these two, I only repeat what I said elsewhere. I have taken charge only recently and such of those as know me, I think, know me well. I mean to go out on circuit from about and Parur to the Cape and I assure the honourable members that I will stay there for one or two days. I request the honourable members of this House and of the other house to co-operate with me in my enquiries while I am there, so that if there is any defect in the department it can be remedied. To say that the Police Department is bad is as good as saying that we ourselves are bad. If the members of both the Houses give me complete co-operation, I assure you Sir, the name of the Department will be kept quite bright.

Regarding the Traffic and C. I. D., I repudiate the charge that the C. I. D. are watching Government Officers. During the period I have been in charge, I may assure the House that the C. I. D. have never brought any report against any officer and no C. I. D. officers has been deputed to watch a Gazetted Officer. The Traffic, and the C. I. D. departments will be taken up for re-organisation soon. After the re-organisation I am sure the House will have less cause for complaint.

There is only one thing more which I would like to mention and that is with regard to the Vigilance Committees. The purpose for which they have been brought into existence is sacred. The object is sacred and their functions are also sacred. What I would like to point out is that there are 839 Vigilance Committees and that in some of them the quality may be bad. Sir, in this matter we should try to mend and not to end them. So, in the course of my circuit if I find that some of the Vigilance Committees are absolutely useless in quality, I shall look into the matter. Vigilance Committees are certainly necessary and even if I have to reduce their number I shall certainly see that the quality is good.

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Mr. K. M. Korah (*Vaikom, Kottayam and Changanacherry cum Peermade*) : May I know from the honourable member whether he is aware that certain of these Vigilance Committee members are persons of low status?

Mr. M. Ramachandra Rao: That was the reason why I said I will look into the matter. When I go out on circuit I request the honourable members will co-operate with me and help me in this matter also.

President : The question before the House is that Government be granted a sum of Rs. 7,54,824 under Demand XV—Police.

The motion was carried and the grant was made.

DEMAND XVI—AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES

Mr. K. R. Narayana Aiyar (*Director of Agricultur and Fisheries* : Sir, I beg to move for a grant of Rs 2.68,297 under Demand XVI—Agriculture and Fisheries.

Mr. A. Easwara Pillai (*Kottarakara and Pattanapuram cum Shencotta*) : Sir, I am constrained to make some observations in regard to this demand. Travancore is mainly an agricultural country. The bulk of its population belongs to the agricultural community. Their main occupation is also agriculture. I looked into the budget with great avidity to find some substantial provision for the improvement of th conditions of these people. I confess that I was sorely disappointed. The programme of the Government seems to be one of making the rich richer and the poor poorer. The poor men are called upon to starve and pay for the luxuries of the rich. Cities and towns are improved at the expense of the villages. Sir, I am positively sure that the Government are entirely ignorant of the conditions of these peasants. I represent the biggest agricultural constituency in the State. I am, myself, an agriculturist. I know intimately the condition of these agriculturists. They are in a very miserable plight. Almost ninety per cent. of their holdings have lost their economic importance on account of sub-divisions and fragmentations effected by operation of law.

(At this stage the Dewan-President left the Hall and Mr. Kottur Kunjukrishna Pillai one of the panel of chairmen, took the Chair).

There are frequent failure of crops on account of drought and inundation. The blizzard of economic depression hits them very hard. The price of agricultural produce has fallen too low that it is not even sufficient to meet the cost of cultivation. The indebtedness of agriculturists is also on the increase to an appalling extent.

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